that. This was so twisted. You read the Police were taken to task, for they meddled with a Member of this House. My request is that the Police Commissioner should not make any consideration to a Member of this House because he is a Member of this House.

President's statement.

President.—Now that the interpellations for the Budget Session have been brought to a close, I beg leave to give information to the House as to where exactly the Government stand in regard to this item of business. The Government received in all 393 questions for answer, of which 308 were answered, leaving 85 unanswered. Of these, 42 were received late. You may remember my holding out an assurance on the eve of the conclusion of the last Legislative Session that, if the questions were sent sufficiently early, no question would be left unanswered. So far as the Secretariat is concerned, there are only 3 questions pending (*hear, hear*), and the pendency of the remaining questions is chiefly due to the non-receipt of the necessary materials from the Departmental Heads. The Secretariat has more than once drawn the attention of the Heads of Departments to the fact that matters relating to the Legislative Council are to be considered as urgent (*hear, hear*), and I am sincerely of opinion that the Heads of Departments have been very earnest in furnishing the necessary materials. In a few cases in which they were not able to do this, the reason is primarily and chiefly want of time. In this connection, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Hon'ble Members the admirable manner in which my new Secretary, Rama Varmha Tampuran, heartily supported by the hard-working Secretariat staff, performed the onerous work that lay on his shoulders. (*Hear, hear.*) Rama Varmha Tampuran joined the Secretariat only at the end of Mithunam last, and he was soon called upon to shoulder the heavy responsibility of the Budget Session. I hope you will be able to bear testimony to the manner in which he acquitted himself during these long and strenuous sittings in bringing about a harmonious relationship between the non-official and the official block (*hear, hear*). I sincerely trust that he will prove more and more useful to us all in carrying on the deliberations of the Council in a manner worthy of the high expectations formed of it.

The deliberations on the budget for 1105 were brought to a close yester-evening, and I consider it an opportune time to say a few words before I vacate the Chair in favour of the Deputy President for the rest of this concluding day of this year's Budget Session. Let it not be understood

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that the few matters I wish to dwell upon are placed before you in any spirit of controversy or want of good-will. The fact that the entire demand on 'General Administration' was voted down by the House is, no doubt, viewed by me with concern, in that I am driven to the necessity of exercising the extraordinary powers conferred on the Diwan under section 16 (8) of the Cochin Council Regulation. (*Hear, hear.*) In the first two Budget Sessions of the Council, no substantial cut was carried, while in the third, of the substantial cuts to the amount of Rs. 93,030 passed by the House, a sum of Rs. 5,500 was restored. In restoring this amount, the principle by which I was guided was what I gave expression to when that Budget Session was brought to a close, namely, 'I have resolved to give due respect to the voice of the people of Cochin as represented in this Council and will not restore the provision partially or totally unless I am thoroughly satisfied that, in the interests of responsible administration by the Government, such a course is necessary'. This principle was reiterated with emphasis by my friend, Mr Damodara Menon, who had the honour of presiding at the last Budget Session, when he observed that the 'cuts carried by the Council after due deliberation would receive at the hands of the Government the consideration they demand and that, in their disposal, it would be the earnest endeavour of the Government to rigorously follow the principle enunciated by the permanent Diwan-President, namely, that no restoration will be resorted to unless it is absolutely necessary.' In accordance with this principle, the acting Diwan restored a sum of Rs. 20,000 out of a total cut of Rs. 28,226 in the estimate for 1104. During the year 1104, the supplementary demand for Rs. 1,750 on account of the pay of the Special Officer and his typist was voted down by the Council, and the same was restored by me. It should not, for a moment, be supposed that the Diwan showed scant courtesy to the wishes of the Council in restoring these cuts, and you may take it from me that, but for the Diwan being convinced of the absolute necessity for the expenditure, he would not have restored the demand. I am now driven to the necessity of restoring the wholesale cut on the 'General Administration', for it cannot be doubted that the Hon'ble Members who voted down the demand *in toto* could not but be conscious that the Government would be compelled to resort to the application of the provision contained in section 16 (8) of the Council Regulation. (*Hear, hear.*) It is said that this wholesale cut was in the nature of a protest cut to make the Government open their eyes and see that the chosen representatives of the people are not to be treated with indifference and that their wishes are not flouted. I am sorry to note that the attitude of the Government has not been properly understood. No tangible instance can be referred to for showing that the Government was

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not paying any heed to the opinions of the non-official Members of the Council. Our watchword has throughout been, in the inimitable language of His Highness our Gracious Maharaja, that 'the representatives of the people and the officers of the Government should work in complete unison, with mutual trust, sympathy and co-operation' (*hear, hear*), and we are trying our very best to loyally carry out the beneficent intention of His Highness to the very letter. Reference was made to the Government not showing due regard to the resolutions passed by the Council. I have no time to take you through the facts and figures in connection with this matter, and the Revenue Member dealt with this matter exhaustively, and satisfactorily made out that the recommendations of the Council conveyed by the resolutions passed by it have always been receiving the serious and earnest consideration they deserve. Let me say, with all the emphasis I can command, that no resolution is pigeonholed, that the Secretariat files will clearly show that prompt actions were being taken in respect of every one of the resolutions and that there is no reasonable ground for supposing that the resolutions passed by the Council are being flouted. I have now adopted the procedure of informing the House at the close of each session as to how many questions were answered and how many left unanswered with a view to remove all erroneous impressions on the subject. I propose to place on the Table of the House full particulars in the matter of the resolutions on the first day of our Vrischigam meeting so as to enable the Members to understand what steps the Government have taken as regards the recommendations of the Council. I may assure the Hon'ble Members that all matters of business pertaining to the Legislative Council are treated as of an urgent nature, and it will be our earnest endeavour to minimise delay as far as possible.

With a word on the grant of enlarged powers to the Cochin Legislative Council, I shall close my observations. At the last Budget Session, Mr. Damodara Menon, as President of the Council, touched upon this subject, and his views thereon are worth repetition. He said:—'The Proceedings of this Council are being sedulously watched by His Highness, and you, who know His Highness' inclination on the subject, need no assurances from me that, if you will work the constitution vouchsafed to you as a generous gift in the right spirit, His Highness will not hesitate to satisfy all your legitimate aspirations. (*Hear, hear.*) The future is with you.' Having had the opportunity to come into close contact with His Highness for the last 4 years and more, I am in a position to endorse the observations of Mr. Damodara Menon fully (*hear, hear*), and it will not, I believe, be questioned that we are to try our best to acquit

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ourselves in such a manner as to deserve all that His Highness was pleased to give us already and what His Highness may be pleased to entrust us with hereafter.

As regards myself, let me tell you in all sincerity that my love for, and attachment to, this growing institution remain steadfast and intense (*hear, hear*), and that nothing will in the least shake my innate faith in the public utility of *this People's Institution*. (*Hear, hear.*) Expressions now and then used to the effect that this Council is a farce, that it is an expensive joke, that it serves no useful purpose, etc., have caused acute pain to me; nevertheless my faith endures, and it is my fervent appeal to one and all of you to strengthen my hands, so far as it lies in your power, for the purpose of helping this useful institution to grow on sound and healthy lines. Believe me that I will heartily co-operate with you to the best of my ability, and, standing together, we may be able to show to the people, both inside and outside Cochin, that there is no difference between the official and non-official block (*hear, hear*), and that we work in complete unison and accord for the advancement of the prosperity of the people of Cochin. (*Hear, hear*). I wish, in conclusion, to tender you my hearty thanks for rendering all help and support, both to the Deputy President and myself, in carrying on the deliberations of this Budget Session with ease and dignity.

May I request you to come and occupy my place?

The Deputy President took the Chair.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—On a point of order, Sir. The motion of the Member for Irinjalakkuda is not in order.

Deputy President.—It is not moved. He has not even stood up.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—On a point of order, Sir. This Bill was published in the Gazette, and in the agenda placed before us it is stated 'for leave to introduce'. According to the Rules, when once the Bill has been published in the Gazette, no leave for introduction is necessary. He is to proceed with the introduction.

Statement placed on the Table.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Sir, under Rule 52 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place on the Table the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under section 16 (9) of the Legislative Council Regulation, VIII of 1098.

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